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A N O T H E R A C C O U N T

O F A

T R A N S A C T I O N,

W H I C H

Passed in the BEGINNING of the YEAR 1778.

[Price 1 s.]

A N O T H E R A C C O U N T
O F A
T R A N S A C T I O N

W H I C H

Passed in the BEGINNING of the YEAR 1778.

RATHER MORE CORRECT THAN WHAT IS CALLED

A N A U T H E N T I C A C C O U N T

O F T H E

PART taken by the late EARL of CHATHAM in that
T R A N S A C T I O N.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL IN THE STRAND.

MDCCLXXVIII.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

SO frequent reference being made to the Narrative of Dr. ADDINGTON, for the convenience of the Reader, that Narrative is reprinted at the end of this Account.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT, &c.

THERE are few, if any cases, in which to draw the attention of the public to the *private disputes of private individuals*, can stand clear of the charge of arrogance, or impertinence. But the dispute which has so unhappily, and, on one side at least, so unexpectedly, sprung up between Sir James Wright and Dr. Addington, is not of the nature of a private dispute between private individuals.

THE parties, indeed, are private individuals. But the manner in which, and the avowed ends for which, what is called, "*The Authentic Account*," has been ushered into the world, have taken the transaction out of the line of *private transactions*; and have raised, or endeavoured to raise, it to the rank of a public *negociation*.

It is not, therefore, in vindication of his own character alone, but in justice to the character of great, and public men, whom the Compiler of this "*Authentic Account*" has so wantonly aspersed, that Sir James Wright stands forth to undeceive the public; and to give the whole and true account of a transaction,

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which.

which that Compiler, for ends too visible to be overlooked, too ungenerous to be seen without repugnance, has thought proper to mutilate, and to misrepresent.

BUT before Sir James Wright proceeds to give his account of this transaction, it will be of some use to the reader to be acquainted with what the Compiler of the "*Authentic Account*," as it is called, avows to be the end proposed by that publication : to examine by what evidence the account, intended to produce that end, is supported.

THE end, as the Compiler informs us, was to establish a certain proposition : to have spoken with precision, he should have said, that it was to establish three propositions ; for, in fact, there are three propositions blended into one.

THE propositions he means to establish are :

THAT the Earl of Chatham did not court a political negotiation with the Earl of Bute.

THAT Dr. Addington was commissioned by Sir James Wright on the part of the Earl of Bute, to hold out to the Earl of Chatham the idea of acting together with him in administration *.

AND lastly, That the Earl of Chatham, without hesitation, per-

* See *Authentic Account*, folio 8. This second proposition is not expressed in words, but is of necessity implied. For if no such idea was held out, no such proposition made or insinuated, by the Earl of Bute, no such prompt and peremptory rejection could have been made on the part of Lord Chatham. A rejection presupposes an offer.

emptorily

emptorily rejected every idea of acting with his Lordship in administration.

To establish these propositions, two kinds of evidence are produced; both honoured, by the compiler of the “Authentic Account,” with the title of “*indisputable* ;” both represented as equally conspiring to render that Account “*unambiguous, authentic* *.” The one consists of certain letters written by Sir James Wright; the other of certain conversations supposed to have passed between him and Dr. Addington.

BUT though it might suit the purposes of the Compiler of that Account, to honour these very different kinds of evidence with the same imposing epithet of *indisputable* ; the Reader, it is hoped, will be rather more accurate in his discrimination.

HE will recollect, that what is supposed to have passed in conversation from Lord Bute to Sir James Wright, from Sir James Wright to Dr. Addington, and from Dr. Addington to Lord Chatham, is, at best, but parole evidence at third-hand: he will therefore readily allow, that such conversations can deserve no kind of credit, unless supported by, or at least consistent with, the written evidence.

WHAT novice is there in logic, who is yet to learn, that what is written is fixed and permanent: but that verbal conversation may be mistaken by the slowness of understanding, or by the haste of zeal; may be mis-stated by the weakness of memory, or by the arts of design? What novice is yet to learn, that the force and the

* See Authentic Account, folio 8.

spirit of a conversation may depend upon the occasion which introduced it; upon the observations which preceded it; upon the time in which it was pronounced; upon the gesture by which it was accompanied? What novice, then, is yet to learn, that a conversation, though related with verbal accuracy, may have diminished or increased its force; may have acquired a milder or a more malignant spirit, in the hands of an artful or of an unskilful reporter?

ANOTHER thing the Reader should remember. In the truth or falsehood of the first of these propositions, Sir James Wright conceives that he is in no wise concerned; nor does he mean to say one syllable, with a view of proving, either that Lord Chatham did, or that he did not, court a political negotiation with the Earl of Bute. The second proposition Sir James conceives it to be a duty, which he owes to himself, as well as to Lord Bute, to disprove. And he thinks it a duty, which he owes to himself, as well as to Lord Bute, to prove, that during the whole course of the transaction, Dr. Addington gave him no information of the prompt and peremptory rejection supposed in the Doctor's Account.

THE Reader too should be introduced betimes to the gentleman with whom Sir James Wright is supposed to have had these conversations: it may help him to apportion the degree of credit due to the Narrative, which they are intended to support.

DR. ADDINGTON has been long and intimately connected with Sir James Wright: Sir James had known him from his youth; considered him as the friend of his bosom, with whom he has ever, on all subjects, communicated as freely as with another self.

Dr.

Dr. Addington was *Physician to Sir James*; and, therefore, saw him frequently in those moments, in which a man is least upon his guard; under that character, in which a man is most apt to confide. Little credit, it is conceived, can be due to the Narrative of such a man, so circumstanced; if, on examining that Narrative, it shall appear, that he has *disculp'd* — it is harsh, but it must be added—that he has *misrepresented* a confidential intercourse; which, if not private friendship, yet, professional delicacy, should have kept from the ear of babbling curiosity.

BEFORE the Reader turns to the Narrative, yet another trait of the good Doctor's character must be pointed out to him. Dr. Addington's abilities as a physician are acknowledged: on the subject of his profession, no man more learned, or more pertinent. But that is rarely the subject of his choice. His darling theme is *politics*. Though the whole listening college should hang on what he spoke, it would give him little pleasure; his joy, his pride, are to dictate on the subject of politics.

THIS remark is not made with a view of throwing any ridicule on the Doctor, but only with a view of setting him right in a little point of chronology; for, at the very outset of the Narrative, his memory fails him. Long before the beginning of the year 1778 had the Doctor conversed with Sir James Wright of Lord Bute and Lord Chatham. He may remember, that Sir James had a long fit of illness, which commenced *more than a year* before the æra from which the Doctor sets out; that during that illness his visits to Sir James were frequent, almost daily; that in all these visits, equally attentive to the constitution of his country, as to the constitution of his patient, he recurred to his

darling topic *politics*; that the hero of his theme was Lord Chatham; that the burden of his song were the distresses of the nation. Let him recollect, and he surely will remember, that at this period, twelve months before the time which, for want of recollection, he so confidently fixes to be the "*first time Sir James Wright talked with him respecting Lord Bute and Lord Chatham*," he frequently gave it as his own opinion, at least, that Lord Chatham had no unfavourable opinion of Lord Bute, but conceived him to be an honest man, to wish well to his country, to be a man endued with many private virtues.

WAS it then so very wonderful, that, in the beginning of the year 1778, Sir James Wright should "*talk with Dr. Addington respecting Lord Bute and Lord Chatham*," when Lord Bute and Lord Chatham had been the constant subject of the Doctor's conversations with Sir James Wright, at visits so frequently repeated, continued to such a length, during the course of the year 1777? Would it have been very wonderful, if, knowing how familiarly the Doctor was received by Lord Chatham; if, observing how frequently he introduced his opinion of the point of view in which Lord Bute was regarded by Lord Chatham; if, remarking the zeal with which he always entered on the subject, Sir James had been led to conclude, that the Doctor, under his own name, was delivering the opinion, was speaking from the instructions, of his patron? That his patron was not averse to a negotiation, but had sent forth his trusty Achates to sound the land, lest peradventure his pride (the friends of Lord Chatham will allow that he possessed at least a decent pride) might be hurt by a refusal? Would it have been very wonderful, if, under that idea, Sir James had com-

* The words of the Narrative.

municated to Lord Bute—not *exposed to the Public*---the purport of such conversations ?

BUT the fact is, Sir James had no such idea. He considered the frequency of the Doctor's visits ; he considered the * length of his visits as the pure effects of a warm and disinterested friendship ; he considered the introduction of political subjects as kindly meant to beguile the *tedium* of a long and painful illness. He saw in the Doctor, or he thought he saw, a skilful physician, and an affectionate friend. Wishing for nothing further, he looked for nothing further. It was a very worthy, a respectable friend, who had been present at most of the conversations which preceded, and at all those which succeeded the era from which the Doctor chuses to set out, who first suggested to Sir James, that the frequent inquiries of the Doctor about the return of Sir James to Town in the beginning of 1778 ; that his frequent visits when he was returned, indicated something more than the attention which an eminent physician has the leisure, or the most intimate friend has the inclination, to shew. That friend it was, who comparing this frequency of visits with the constant recourse to the same topic of conversation, first suggested, that it was meant, and wished, that the purport of these conversations should be communicated to Lord Bute.

HERE then is the origin of the transaction, which the author of the " Authentic Account " is willing to call—and yet, it seems,

* The Doctor's *political* visits—for such they were, as much as *medicinal* visits—frequently exceeded *two hours*. No doubt, his other patients may boast of the same attention. Sir James has not *now* the vanity to suppose that he has been distinguished.

ashamed

ashamed to call—"a *negociation*;" and which, whatever it may be called, began on the second, and terminated (on the part of Sir James) on the seventh of February.

TRUE, indeed, it is, that Doctor Addington, in his very curious Narrative *, talks of various conversations which preceded the Epoch; of various conversations which passed in the month of January.

OF these various conversations one extract deserves the reader's particular attention.

THE great object, which the Doctor attributes to Sir James, was to save this country from ruin. The only means which the Doctor supposes Sir James to have discovered of saving it, was, that Lord Chatham should be brought into administration by Lord Bute. And the reason why he thought this to be the only means was, that he had "*remarked, they were the two men whom the King hated most* †."

It is with reluctance Sir James even quotes this passage. The name of his sovereign is too dear, too sacred, to have been voluntarily introduced: he never so far forgot his duty as to speak so irreverently of his king. If he has quoted this passage, it is only to expose the palpable inconsistency of the Narrative. Is it possible

* Narrative, folio 1. The compiler of the "Authentic Account" is the inventor of a new kind of arrangement: in his compilation, the *narrative* forms the *appendix*; and the vouchers introduced to support the narrative, form the *body* of the work. There are occasions where obscurity is better than order.

† See Narrative, folio 1.

that

that Sir James could pretend to have been authorized by Lord Bute to commission Dr. Addington, or that Sir James could wish to engage Dr. Addington, to negotiate with the Earl of Chatham about the terms of acting with the Earl of Bute in administration, at the very moment when he represented the Earl of Bute to be in the predicament in which he is here made to represent him?

WHAT idea must the reader form of the understanding of Dr. Addington, if he could have accepted this commission; if he could even have listened another moment to a man, who, if his account were true, must have been the wildest of all possible visionaries?

But the conversations, whatever they were, which passed previously to the third of February, make no part of, what is called, the *Negotiation*: for the Doctor set out with all the caution of a veteran member of the *corps diplomatique*. However he may now find it convenient to apply, or to misapply, these pretended conversations; he determined—prudentially, at the time, for himself, and, in the event, happily for Sir James, he determined—not to trust to mere conversation. “*He desired to have in writing the substance of what had passed between Lord Bute and Sir James.*” He had it in writing. He received the writing “*on the third of February before nine in the morning, and set out directly for Hayes* *.”

To this written evidence then, let the reader advert. It was on that which was *written*, and on that *alone*, the Doctor was to

* See Authentic Account, folio 10.

negociate. All that had passed, and which was not written, was, in that very paper, declared to be of *little concern*.

LET us then examine the written evidence, as given by the Author of the “ Authentic Account.” Let us begin by the credentials which this sage negociator took with him to Hayes.

No. I.—*Extract of a letter from Sir James Wright to Dr. Addington.*

“ As I immediately, on my return from Lord Bute’s, took down
“ in short hand the principal heads of it, I think I shall not de-
“ viate materially from the very words of the conversation, at least
“ if the spirit of his Lordship’s language is debilitated, the essen-
“ tial matter of it is the same.

“ I told Lord Bute, that a friend of mine, whose honour and
“ sincerity I could rely upon, had hinted to me, that he thought
“ Lord Chatham had a high opinion of his Lordship’s honour, as
“ well as his sincere good wishes for the public safety. He en-
“ quired who my friend was? I told him it was you. He re-
“ plied, I know he is much Lord Chatham’s friend; I know also
“ that he is an honest man, and a man of sense. I related to him
“ the conversation that had passed between yourself and me, at
“ our last meeting. He said, Lord Chatham was one of the very
“ few he had ever acted with in Administration, who had shewn
“ great honesty and generosity of sentiment, with a sincere con-
“ duct, and intention for the King’s and public welfare.

“ That as for himself, he said, he had no connexion with any
“ one in Administration; that he had not the least distant friend-
“ ship with Lord North, or he should certainly advise him, by
“ all

“ all means, to aim at gaining Lord Chatham over to the King’s
 “ service and confidence ; and, said he, you may tell your friend,
 “ Dr. Addington, to assure Lord Chatham, that if he should think
 “ proper to take an active part in Administration, he shall have
 “ my most hearty concurrence, and sincere good wishes ; and you
 “ have my full leave to communicate all my sentiments on this sub-
 “ ject to your friend. He continued saying many very respectful
 “ things of Lord Chatham, adding, had we not unfortunately dis-
 “ agreed about the last peace, I am sure he and I should have con-
 “ tinued such steady friends, that this country never would have
 “ experienced her present severe misfortunes. He also said, the
 “ prior part of Lord Chatham’s last speech was manly and con-
 “ stitutional, and could not but induce every one, a well-wisher
 “ to his country, to wish to see him again take a part in the go-
 “ vernment of the King’s affairs, which would be a happiness for
 “ the whole empire. He continued saying, Perhaps we have men
 “ of abilities in the House of Lords, but those in Administration
 “ (except Lord Suffolk, who is usually ill half the year) are none
 “ of them sufficiently serious, or attentive enough to the business
 “ of the nation, which is now of so much consequence, as not to
 “ be neglected in the least degree. He therefore could not say he
 “ had a good opinion of their conduct. He also said, in the
 “ course of the conversation, that nothing but the most imminent
 “ danger to this country, should induce him to take a part in the
 “ Government of it, unless in conjunction with an upright and
 “ able Administration.

“ Much more was said, but of less moment ; however, all
 “ tended to convince me, that there are not two other men in

“ the kingdom more faithfully inclined to the good and safety of
“ our present distracted nation, than our two noble friends*.”

THIS letter, then, forms the credentials upon which the Doctor opened the Negotiation—since a Negotiation it must be called; and the reader will observe that it consists of two parts: The former contains an account of what Sir James was *expressly permitted* to communicate to Dr. Addington, for the information of Lord Chatham: The latter is represented, not as any thing he had been instructed to communicate, but only as containing the substance of what had farther been said upon the subject; and was therefore merely a confidential communication.

THERE are two or three very remarkable facts asserted in the former, the authoritative, part of this letter.

THE first is this: Lord Bute had been informed that a friend, on whose honor and integrity Sir James Wright could rely, had hinted to Sir James, that he thought Lord Chatham had a high opinion of the honour of Lord Bute, as well as his sincere good wishes for the public safety.

THE next fact which strikes us is, that the Earl of Bute, far from catching at this unexpected compliment, far from being over-hasty in making any reply to it; unwilling to rely altogether upon the judgment of Sir James; chose, before he took any kind of notice of the compliment, to form his own opinion of the honor and integrity of the friend, upon whom Sir James so implicitly relied.

* This letter was dated January 2d, it should have been February 2d, having been received by Dr. Addington on February 3d.

THE letter still farther asserts, that when he was informed that this friend was Dr. Addington, his Lordship contented himself with observing, That he knew the Doctor to be much Lord Chatham's friend; that he knew him also to be an honest man, and a man of sense.

HITHERTO, at least, then, there was nothing like courting a Negotiation on the part of the Earl of Bute; nothing which indicated any desire of taking a part in Administration; any desire of inviting the Earl of Chatham to act with him.

THE subject, it should seem by this Account, might have dropt, had not his Lordship's attention been recalled to it by Sir James, who proceeded to relate to his Lordship the conversation which had passed between himself and Dr. Addington at their last meeting. What that conversation was represented to have been, the reader may *now* understand, the Earl of Chatham and Dr. Addington must *then* have understood, from the tenor of the Earl of Bute's reply to it. It clearly was represented to have contained a wish on the part of *the friend* of the Earl of Chatham, that his Lordship might again be called into Administration: it clearly was represented to have contained a desire, on the part of *the friend* of the Earl of Chatham, of knowing the sentiments of the Earl of Bute upon that proposition. To no other conversation could the reply of Lord Bute be, in any manner, applicable.

FOR what was that reply? That Lord Chatham had, when acting in administration with Lord Bute, shewn great honesty and generosity of sentiment, with a sincere conduct and intention for the welfare of the King, and of the Public: That Lord Bute

had no connexion with the present administration; that, if he had, he should certainly advise the minister, by all means, to gain over Lord Chatham to the King's service and confidence; that Sir James might authorise Dr. Addington to assure the earl of Chatham, that if he should think proper to take an active part in administration, he might depend upon the most hearty concurrence, and sincere good wishes of the Earl of Bute: Sir James had full leave to communicate to Dr. Addington *all* his Lordship's sentiments upon *this subject*; that is, all that he had expressed upon this *one single point*, of the admission of the Earl of Chatham into administration.

AND here ended all that Sir James Wright had been instructed to communicate to Dr. Addington. Here, then, ended all that Dr. Addington was, in any wise, authorised to relate to the Earl of Chatham. What follows, was communicated to the Doctor, not as a matter of *instruction*, but as a matter, at most, of discretionary *confidence*: not as the *tenor*, but only as the *purport*, of what further passed, of *all which further past, of any moment*, between the Earl of Bute and Sir James Wright upon the subject. And this, it must be again repeated, was a *private* confidential communication; and which the Doctor was by no means authorised to relate.

NOT, that in this private, confidential communication, so uncandidly divulged, there is any thing which can, in any degree, tend to establish any one of the propositions, intended to be established by the illiberal publication of what is miscalled the "Authentic Account." For it appears only, that, in the course of the conversation, Lord Bute expressed his regret at the disagreement between the Earl of Chatham and himself on the subject of

the peace; praised all that deserved praise, in the last speech made by Lord Chatham in the House; blamed the want of seriousness of some men in office; and declared, that nothing but the most imminent danger of his country, should induce him to take a part in the government of it: and then, only in conjunction with an able and upright administration*.

WHICH now of the two last propositions, intended to be established, of the only two propositions, which Sir James is bound to refute, has this letter contributed to establish?

DOES it prove that the Earl of Bute held out to Lord Chatham the idea of acting with him in administration? That Sir James Wright had commissioned Dr. Addington to propose such an idea? Certainly not. The letter asserts, that Dr. Addington, *an intimate friend of Lord Chatham*, had expressed, in very flattering terms, the high opinion his Lordship entertained of the Earl of Bute. The letter implies, that the same very intimate friend of the Earl of Chatham had expressed a wish that his Lordship might again be admitted into administration; had expressed a desire, that the Earl of Bute would declare his sentiments on this occasion. Is there any thing in this which conveys any proposition on the part of Lord Bute? These are declarations, and wishes

* In the printed copy it is, "unless in conjunction."—In the rough draught of the letter, which Sir James has by him, the word "unless" is not to be found; and it certainly has been inserted either in transcribing, or in printing, by mistake. It has no meaning here. For if it meant any thing, it would make the Earl of Bute declare, that in a time of *no* imminent danger to his country, he would *not* act with any, but an able and upright administration: but in case of the *most imminent danger to his country*, he would act with any administration, whether able or weak, upright or wicked. A proposition too absurd for envy or malice to put into the mouth of the Earl of Bute!

of a friend of Lord Chatham : nor can a bare assurance of concurrence and support, given in answer to such declarations, and such wishes, be so tortured as to be made to convey a proposal of acting together in administration.

BUT the truth of this part of the letter is expressly denied by Dr. Addington. So we are twice very cautiously informed ; in the Account and in the Narrative. Be it so denied, what then ? The Compiler of the Account, whom, after all, we must suppose to be the Author of the Narrative, is, it must be allowed, but a poor Logician. Does he not see, that, in the then stage of the business, the question was not, whether the Earl of Chatham had, or had not, expressed that favourable opinion of the Earl of Bute ; or whether Dr. Addington had, or had not, attributed that opinion to his Patron ; had, or had not, expressed a wish that his Patron might be admitted into administration ; a desire of knowing the sentiments of the Earl of Bute on the occasion : in the then stage of the business, the question was purely and simply, whether the Letter of Sir James Wright expressly asserted, or of necessity implied, that the Earl of Bute had been made to believe, that such were the sentiments of the Earl of Chatham ; such the wishes of the friend of the Earl of Chatham ? And the truth of this, it is conceived, even Dr. Addington will not venture to deny.

HE will not venture to deny it, even now, before the Public are informed, that the first part of the letter was suppressed.—That the part suppressed declares, in direct terms, that the whole Letter was written in compliance with the request of Dr. Addington : insinuates, in terms scarce equivocal, that Sir James conceived
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the request to have been made with the participation of the Doctor's Patron *.

BUT, perhaps, in the infirm state in which the Earl of Chatham then was, that part of the Letter, which contained Dr. Addington's Account of his Lordship's supposed sentiments for the Earl of Bute, might escape his notice.

NOR this neither. For Dr. Addington, having finished his Narrative, recollects, not only that it becomes him *now to deny* the truth of this part of the Letter of Sir James Wright; but that it highly became him to deny it *then*, at *the time* the Letter was *delivered* to the Earl of Chatham. And truly it is rather wonderful, that this did not strike him at the very outset of his Narrative: it is rather wonderful, that this discovery should be reserved for a *Postscript*. However that be, in the Postscript, we are informed, that "*after reading that part of the letter to Lord Chatham; he, Doctor Addington, could not but take notice, that Sir James had mistaken him †.*"

THIS was a lucky circumstance: as the Earl of Chatham, not only did not court a political negotiation with the Earl of Bute, but was determined, without hesitation, peremptorily to reject every idea of acting with his Lordship in administration; it was certainly very fortunate, that his friend pointed out to his notice

* The part suppressed is in these words:

"My respect for your Noble Friend, makes me willing to obey your commands, to put on paper the conversation which passed this morning."

Yet even thus warned, the Earl of Chatham took no pains to undeceive the Earl of Bute: Dr. Addington took no pains to undeceive Sir James.

† See Narrative, folio 3.

a mistake, which, under that determination, it highly behoved him to correct, in terms the most explicit and pointed.

SUCH a correction, then, we shall certainly find conveyed, in the Earl of Chatham's own strong and pointed language, by that message which his Lordship dictated in reply to the communication of Sir James Wright.

DOES the message contain such a correction? Let it speak for itself.

N^o II.—*Copy of a Note given by Dr. Addington to Sir James Wright.*

“ LORD CHATHAM heard, with particular satisfaction, the favourable sentiments on his subject of the noble Lord, with whom you had talked with regard to the impending ruin of the kingdom. He fears all hope is precluded, but adds, that zeal, duty, and obedience, may outlive hope; that if any thing can prevent the consummation of public ruin, it can only be *new Counsels*, and *new Counsellors*, without farther loss of time; a *real change* from a sincere conviction of past errors, and not a mere palliation, which must prove fruitless.”

Is there now one word in this note, which tends to correct this mistake? Not being corrected, was not the truth of it implicitly admitted? Was not this, then, of a nature rather *insidious*? to the feelings of an honest man, offensive? What then can be said? That the Earl of Chatham meant to deceive Lord Bute! Or that Dr. Addington meant to deceive Sir James! No. Let us take a milder supposition. To this part of the letter the Earl did not attend. The Doctor meant, but forgot, to point it out to his no-

tice; and his Narrative tells us, not what he did, but what he meant to do.

HITHERTO, then, the letter of Sir James Wright affords no proof, that the Earl of Bute held forth any proposition, or that Dr. Addington was commissioned to hold forth any proposition to the Earl of Chatham; for hitherto the letter gives us nothing but the sentiments of Lord Chatham, and the wishes of Dr. Addington.

Is any such proposition contained in the message which Sir James Wright was commissioned to deliver, or rather in the communication which he was permitted to make? It would be insulting the understanding of the Reader, to think a single argument was necessary to prove, that no such proposition is contained in it.—“If the Earl of Chatham takes an active part in administration, he may be assured of my *most hearty concurrence and sincere good wishes.*”——Is this the language of a man who meant to take a part in administration? Or is it only the language of an independent, and no inconsiderable, Member of the Legislature? Who sees not, that it is the simple, genuine language, which every independent Member of the House of Lords, which every independent Member of the House of Commons, would naturally hold to a Minister, on whose abilities and integrity they relied, and whose administration they therefore wished to support?

Is any such proposition contained in the other part of the letter? in that part where Sir James spoke, not by instruction, but in confidence? Nor there neither: All that is there conveyed is, That in case this country should be found in the most imminent danger, *and in that case only*, the Earl of Bute would do—what every honest man in his station ought to do, if called upon—would act in

conjunction with an upright and able administration. This surely was not an offer to act in administration with the Earl of Chatham, or with any other Minister, in a moment when no such imminent danger either existed or was apprehended.

DID the message dictated by Lord Chatham, in reply to what had been communicated through Dr. Addington, either suppose such an offer to be made, or reject it if made?

THAT message the Reader has seen. It expresses particular satisfaction “*at the favourable sentiments on his subject of the Earl of Bute.*” This surely expresses no rejection on one part; no offer on the other.

BUT it expresses, moreover, the necessity of *new Counsels*, and new Counsellors.

LET the Reader recollect, that Dr. Addington had already made Sir James Wright declare, that, with respect to royal favour, the two noble Lords stood equally in the same situation: let him combine this assertion of the Doctor with the terms of the message: let him recollect, that the Doctor declares, that, on the 3d of February, he communicated to Lord Chatham not only the full contents of the letter of Sir James, but also every thing else deposed in the first, and in the beginning of the second, page of the Narrative: and the Reader must allow, that neither Dr. Addington, nor any other *friend* of Lord Chatham, has a right to suppose, that his Lordship’s expressing the necessity of new Counsellors, or new Counsels, could imply any rejection of acting with Lord Bute; since, if the Doctor’s account be true, Lord Bute must appear to Lord Chatham a *new Counsellor*, in the same sense as he himself could be called a new Counsellor.

By whom then, in what terms, upon what authority, at what time, was this pretended offer of acting in administration with the Earl of Chatham conveyed? This part of the transaction is so very important, that every circumstance which relates to it should be noted with particular attention.

By whom, then, was the offer conveyed? It was conveyed by Dr. Addington, in certain conversations which he had with the Earl of Chatham: and, as it was not only indebted for its conveyance to the ear, but for its birth to the imagination, of the Doctor; it may, for any thing Sir James can say, have been conveyed in so strange a manner, and at so strange a time, as to make it appear, in the eyes of the Earl of Chatham, “of a nature too “infidious, and to *his* feelings too offensive to be unrejected *.”

In what terms was it conveyed? In terms the most explicit that could be invented, Dr. Addington assured the Earl of Chatham, that the Earl of Bute was ready to be Secretary of State in the room of *Lord Weymouth* †.

UPON what authority was it conveyed? Upon the authority—so the Doctor boldly asserts—upon the authority of Sir James Wright.—Indeed! strange! This authority was no doubt in writing? No: it was a verbal authority. When was it given? On the 2d of February. It was given, then, prior to the first visit which the Doctor made to Hayes: it was given at the very time when he requested, that *the whole* of what had passed between Lord Bute and Sir James might be communicated to the Earl of Chatham: it was given at the very time he so prudently, and cautiously, demanded, and so readily was promised, to have in writ-

* See No. IV. Authentic Account, folio 6.

† See Narrative, folio 1, 2.

ing, before he went to Hayes, the substance of—that is, if words have any meaning, every thing material, every thing ESSENTIAL in—the whole of what had passed.

THE Reader scarcely need turn back again to the letter of Sir James, written in compliance with that demand. Not even Dr. Addington will venture to assert, that there is any thing in that letter, either in substance or in shadow, which looks like an offer, on the part of the Earl of Bute, to take any office; any thing which insinuates, even in the most distant terms, that Lord Bute had it in his power to procure the dismissal of a Minister from so responsible an office; or had it in his wish to step into that office himself. Not even Dr. Addington will venture to assert, that either he, or his noble Patron, could collect, from any thing contained in that letter, that any part of the *unrelated* conversation could convey such an offer, or warrant such assurances. Not even Dr. Addington will venture to deny, that this very letter renders it impossible, that any such verbal authority could have been given: for not even Dr. Addington will venture to deny, that the letter concludes by saying, “much more was said, but of *less concern.*”

To the good sense and candour of the Reader we may leave it to determine, whether any one part of the conversation related in the letter, was of half so much concern, or deserved half so much notice, as this very part, which is not related in it: whether the commission to make such a proposition so important, not expressed, not implied, not insinuated, in the written instructions, could, with any degree of common sense, have been given to a man, who by those very written instructions was informed, that they contained every thing of great concern? Can the Reader
desire

desire a clearer proof, that no such authority was given? that this conversation is the mere creature of the imagination of Dr. Addington?

IN fact, the Doctor betrays himself. When was it possible for Sir James Wright to have given him this verbal authority? By the Doctor's own account, when Sir James was called upon to put in writing the substance of what had passed between the Earl of Bute and himself, he excused himself for the *moment*, "*being in a hurry to go to Ray-house*,"—but promised "to write that evening, and send the letter to town by nine the next morning." Would the Doctor insinuate, that Sir James, at *that time*, when he promised to put the substance of all that passed in writing, bade him rely for this important point on bare verbal authority? In fact, he does insinuate—he does more—he seems to aver it*.

BUT let him reflect a moment. What language does he put into the mouth of Sir James, whom he supposes to be speaking to a man of sense, to a man who knows the world, to a Doctor Addington? "Sir," he makes him say, "I am engaging you in a very delicate and critical business: for your guidance as well as your security, I will *put on paper the least material* part of what I am authorised to give you in commission: for your guidance as well as your security I will leave *you to verbal authority* for *the most material parts* of what I am authorised to give you in commission." This language, if Sir James could have holden this language, would have been too barefaced to be called "*insidious*;" too clumsy to have merited the reproach of "*surprising friendly integrity by courtly insinuation* †." As Sir James

* See Narrative, folio 2.

† See No. IV. Authentic Account, folio 6.

had once the highest opinion of the integrity of Dr. Addington, so he assures him that he never had, nor has he now, so contemptuous an opinion of his understanding, as to have holden such a language as this to him.

IN truth, it is with pain that Sir James sees the Doctor place his own understanding in so unfavourable a point of view. For what opinion can the reader form of that man's understanding, who, in a business of this nature, demands a written authority; receives, approves, acts upon that written authority; and then gravely observes, that this authority, so demanded, received, approved, acted upon, mis-states the most material fact, omits the most material instruction? Why then approve, why act upon it? Why not return it to Sir James to correct and enlarge it? Three short hours would have been sufficient to send it back, and to receive it again with these corrections and enlargements. And imminent as the danger of the Country appeared to the Doctor and his patron, three short hours would not have completed the consummation of its ruin.

ANOTHER thing must strike the Reader; so inconsistent is the verbal authority with the whole tenor of the letter, that it clearly did not gain credit from the Earl of Chatham. This may be boldly asserted from the Doctor's own shewing. For when he related this part of the pretended conversation to the Earl of Chatham, the Earl, he confesses, "*thought it strange*;" and with an air of marked incredulity, cried out, "Indeed! did Sir James "Wright tell you so?"

ACCUSTOMED as the Earl of Chatham had been to Negotiations, he must have totally lost his faculties before he could have
listened

listened for a moment to a commission given by a man, who professing to write the substance of all that was to be said, who declaring that nothing of *concern* was to be offered, but what was written; could yet have given only verbal instructions about the circumstance of all others the most material, the circumstance which was to form the great object of the Negotiation.

WITH no great confidence, one would think, could the Earl have listened to the man who should accept such a commission, who should be weak enough to rely on verbal instructions for the *most important* of all the points, which he conceived he was to agitate; at the same time that for less material points he came armed with written instructions; and those instructions also couched in such terms, as not only not to convey general credentials, or powers of any latitude, but expressly, and in terms, to limit the credentials and the powers to what was contained in those instructions. His confidence in such a Negotiator would not, one would imagine, be very much augmented, when he remarked the untoward moment at which this sagacious Negotiator introduced this material part of his business.

FOR at what time was this offer conveyed? At a very remarkable time. It was on the 3d of February; after the Doctor had read to the *attentive* Earl of Chatham the first letter of Sir James; after the Earl had taken some minutes to reflect upon the contents of that letter; after he had actually dictated an answer to that letter; after that answer had been written; after that answer had been read to the Earl of Chatham: then it was, at that critical moment, that Dr. Addington communicated to the Earl the readi-

ness of Lord Bute to be Secretary of State in the place of Lord Weymouth*.

“CONFIDENCE,”—the Earl of Chatham once said upon a remarkable occasion, “was a plant of slow growth in an aged bosom.” Well was it for Dr. Addington, that his Lordship’s confidence in him was full grown. The manner, and the time, of introducing this offer, might otherwise have torn it up by the roots. And the epithets of “*insidious*” and “*offensive*” might have been transferred from one subject to another.

BUT, in truth, these very reflections supply another, and that an indisputable proof, that this part of the Doctor’s Narrative did not gain credit from the Earl of Chatham. His Lordship did not doubt the integrity of his friend; but he had too much discernment not to perceive, that no reliance could be placed on his memory, or his judgment. He acted, therefore, as if no such proposition had been hinted. He did not add one syllable to, he did not change one letter in, the message he had dictated, before this proposition had been mentioned. He took no notice of a circumstance to which he gave no credit; but to which, had he given credit to it, as an honest man, predetermined not to act with Lord Bute, he was bound to give the most explicit answer.

THUS far then, no proof has been adduced, that the Earl of Bute held forth the idea of acting in administration with the Earl of Chatham.

* See Narrative, folio 2.

By what proof is the next proposition established? How does it appear, that the Earl of Chatham, without hesitation, peremptorily rejected all idea of acting in administration with the Earl of Bute?

THE truth of this proposition rests, in the first instance, upon the private authority of Dr. Addington. Where else could it rest? For as no offer had been made, or intended to be made, by any other person, to no other person could a rejection well be signified. What credit may be due to this partial authority, the Reader may, perhaps, in his own bosom have already decided. He has seen the Doctor, without any voucher, in direct and palpable contradiction to a written voucher, compel the Earl of Bute to make an offer of acting in administration with the Earl of Chatham: Would it be more wonderful, if, without any voucher, in direct and palpable contradiction to a written voucher, he should compel the Earl of Chatham, without hesitation, peremptorily to reject such an offer?

AND, in fact, such seems to have been the case. The only written voucher, given at this first period, on the part of Lord Chatham, the Reader has already seen. Does that contain a peremptory rejection? The Reader has seen that it does not. And yet the Doctor informs us, that the Earl of Chatham did, if not *without hesitation*, yet peremptorily, reject the idea of acting with the Earl of Bute. For, says the Doctor “After this,” that is after he had made an offer on the part of Lord Bute, which he was never authorised to make—“I asked Lord Chatham, whether “he had any objection to coming in with Lord Bute or Lord “North? He lifted up his hands, and said, It was impossible for
E 2 “ him

“ him to serve the King and country with either of them : and if
 “ any one asks you about it, I desire you to bear witness that you
 “ heard me say so *.”

SUCH a multitude of Questions crowd in upon us here, that one knows not where to begin ; to which to give the preference.

How came the name of Lord North to be introduced ? Will the Doctor pretend that Sir James gave him any commission to negotiate with the Earl of Chatham, on the part of Lord North ? Or has the Doctor made a vow to do all, that depends on him, to set Sir James at variance with every man, to whom he has obligations, or for whom he feels respect ?

HAVING declared, that he could not serve the King and country with either of these Noble Lords ; the Earl of Chatham desired, and, the Doctor tells us, over again desired, that he, the Doctor, would bear witness to this determination, if any one asked him about it.

Now then let the Doctor bring this rejection home to Sir James. Did he bear witness of this determination to Sir James ? If he did not, how will he clear himself of the charge of disobeying the solemn injunctions of his Patron ? For, by his account, Sir James had *asked him about it* ; was waiting for his answer *about it*. How will he clear himself of the charge of abusing the confidence of the man whom he called his friend ? Or how can Sir James be

* Narrative, folio 2.

affected by a rejection, which he never knew, which he never could suspect?

THAT he did not bear witness of this determination, appears from his own Narrative.—“Sir James,” says he, “continued at Ray-House till February 5th or 6th. He called on the Doctor “in the morning of the 6th*.”

IT is true, that Sir James, far from considering himself in the light of a Negotiator; far from feeling that pressing anxiety, which a Negotiator, impatient for an answer, would naturally have felt; staid from the 2d to the 6th of February, quietly employed about his farm at Ray-House.

THE Doctor was not quite so much at his ease; he felt more of the *empressement* of the busy Negotiator. Nor shall his merits be lost, or due praise withheld.—Impatient at the inactivity of Sir James, on the 5th of February the Doctor wrote him the following, very pressing invitation :

Copy of a Note from Dr. Addington to Sir James Wright.

“Dear Sir James,

“I BEG you to come to town. There is no time to lose, in the opinion of your ever faithful friend,

Thursday, Feb. 5th.

“A. ADDINGTON †.”

* See Narrative, folio 2.

† The original of this note is in the hands of Sir James Wright. How the modesty of this ever-faithful friend came to conceal it from the Public, that Public is left to determine.

ON the 6th of February, and in consequence of this invitation, Sir James returned to town. He called on the Doctor; and, as the Doctor very truly relates—for sometimes the Doctor is correct—he took a copy of the Earl of Chatham's answer: as the Doctor very truly relates, he took notice of the phrase "*real change*." As the Doctor very truly relates, he took that opportunity of remarking that the Earl of Bute had not seen a great personage for — not two, but — many years.

HERE now was the very opening which the Doctor should have wished for declaring what his Patron had charged him to declare to every inquirer: namely, that his Lordship could not serve the King and country with Lord Bute. Did the Doctor, on this opening, or at any time during the conversation of this day, communicate this declaration to Sir James? In neither of his contradictory accounts of this day's conversation, has the Doctor offered to assert that he did. If he did not mention it on this day, he could not mention it during the whole course of the transaction. For, by his own account, he saw no more of Sir James till after the transaction had, on his part, been finally closed.

THERE was yet another communication, which, surely, the Doctor was bound to make; another question, which he was, on *this* day, bound to put to Sir James. Lord Chatham, as the Doctor has already told us, had expressed his doubts, whether Lord Bute had declared his readiness to be Secretary of State? And the Doctor likewise tells us, that "he has asked Sir James "once or twice *since*, whether Lord Bute would be Secretary of "State?" Did the Doctor, during the course of this day's conversation, put this important question? In neither of his contradictory accounts of this day's conversation, has the Doctor presumed

to assert that he did. What purpose he meant to answer by putting the question at any later period—if indeed he had put it at any later period—the Doctor will not venture to declare*.

WE are now drawing near to the conclusion of the Doctor's Narrative. Sir James quitted London the same evening; having first informed Dr. Addington, "*that his stay in town could be of no further use.*" The next day, the 7th of February, was a busy day. On that day Dr. Addington wrote one of his contradictory Accounts of the conversation of the preceding day†: on the same day, Lord Chatham wrote, with his own hand, and in his own stile, his first letter of *rejection*: that letter which declares that certain—not terms, not propositions—but "*conversations*" could not be *unrejected*: that letter which now, on the 7th of February, discovers, that the man "*whose favourable sentiments gave him*" on the 3d of February "*such particular satisfaction,*" "*had brought the King and kingdom to*

* The Reader is desired to compare the two Accounts given by Dr. Addington of this day's conversation; the one is to be found in the Letter, marked No. III. "Authentic Account," folio 5, 6. the other in the Narrative, folio 2.—In the latter, Sir James Wright is made to say, "*no objection* was likely to be made *to more than one* of his Lordship's" —meaning the Earl of Chatham's—Friends:" In the Narrative, he is made to say, "There are *some* *he*—Lord Chatham—might chuse who *could not be admitted.*"—In the latter, he is made to express a wish of an interview between the noble Lords: in the Narrative, no such wish is expressed, or insinuated.—In the letter it is asserted, that to this wish, Sir James *only* added, "that it was in the power of the Earls of Bute and Chatham to save the nation:" In the Narrative, he is allowed to have mentioned the length of time since the Earl of Bute had seen his Royal Master; a circumstance, surely, too material to have been passed by unnoticed. Let the Reader judge, now, what reliance can be had on the Narrative, or on the Authentic Account, of a man who, in the relation of one half-hour's conversation, can so grossly contradict himself on points so material.

† See No. III. Authentic Account, folio 5, 6.

"*ruin.*"

“*ruin**.” On *the same day too*, Sir James Wright wrote his second and last letter on this subject; and here, so far as he was concerned, ended the transaction.

IT is necessary that, in this part, the Reader be attentive to dates.

THIS Letter, he will observe, was written on the 7th of February, but contains the account of what had passed between the Earl of Bute and Sir James Wright on the 6th of February; when Sir James, for the first time, saw, and communicated to the Earl of Bute Lord Chatham’s Note of the 3d of February: that on quitting the Earl of Bute after that conversation, on the 6th of February, Sir James informed Dr. Addington, that his stay in town could be of *no service*: that Sir James went that evening into the country: that Dr. Addington communicated both these facts to the Earl of Chatham, at Hayes, by a letter written February the 7th, at two o’clock: that, *on receiving that account*, Lord Chatham wrote his letter of rejection, which reached Dr. Addington on Sunday the 8th of February: that on the same day, and near the same time, the Doctor received the following letter from Sir James Wright by one of his servants †, which had been written in the afternoon of the 7th of February.

THE last conversation therefore between the Earl of Bute and Sir James Wright, upon this subject, passed more than four-and-

* See No. IV. Authentic Account, folio 6.

† The Doctor says, “the letter was expected by the post, but came *by a special messenger*.” The truth is, Sir James went into the country on Friday evening; not having leisure to write that evening, and no post going into London on Sunday, he sent a common livery servant with it: but the Doctor, full of the dignity of a Negotiation, converts this livery servant into a Special Messenger.

twenty hours, and the written account of it was drawn up more than twelve hours, before Lord Chatham's Letter of Rejection was written; or, so far as appears, was ever thought of.

No. VI.—*Copy of a Letter from Sir James Wright to Dr. Addington.*

“ My dear Doctor, *Ray-House, Feb. 7, 1778.*

“ I COMMUNICATED our conversation of yesterday to my
 “ friend, soon after I left you, and then shewed him a copy of
 “ the paper you allowed me to transcribe. You will easily recol-
 “ lect, on my first reading it over with you, the observation I
 “ made on the particular expression in it, “ *A real change*, and
 “ not a mere palliation;” namely, that your noble friend still
 “ thought that Lord Bute had influence in the measures of Admi-
 “ nistration. In the very same light he also construed this expres-
 “ sion; he therefore desired me to inform you, for the instruc-
 “ tion of your friend, that the ill health he had long been sub-
 “ ject to, united with the distresses of his family, had accustomed
 “ him to a perfect retired life, which he hoped, as long as he
 “ lived, steadily to adhere to; he added, that his long absence
 “ from all sort of public business, and the many years which had
 “ intervened since he saw the King, precluded him from forming
 “ any idea of measures past or to come, but what he gathers
 “ from very general conversation, or the newspapers; and this
 “ total ignorance, he said, renders the opinion given of the pre-
 “ sent dangerous crisis more alarming to him than it would other-
 “ wise be, and much more painful, as, notwithstanding his zeal
 “ for the country, love for the King, and very high opinion of

F

“ Lord

“ Lord Chatham, he has it not in his power to be of the least use
 “ in this dangerous emergency ; and that from his heart he wished
 “ Lord Chatham every imaginable success in the restoration of
 “ the public welfare.

“ I THINK, my dear Doctor, this was almost *verbatim* my
 “ friend’s conversation ; at least, I am confident it is a *fac-simile*
 “ of his real sentiments ; and you see how very distant they are
 “ from the least inclination ever to interfere in the present or any
 “ future Administration, which your noble friend seemed to ap-
 “ prehend. May he extend the powers of his own great and
 “ honest abilities, to heal the dreadful wounds, which this poor
 “ country has received from what he very wisely calls *past errors*.
 “ Without his head, as well as heart, I fear all is lost. I remem-
 “ ber poor Lord Northington saying to me more than once, not
 “ long before his death, that “ as I was a young man, I should
 “ probably live to see (if I survived Lord Chatham and a few other
 “ great men) that this country would not only want abilities but
 “ hearts, and that our state would then be really piteous, where
 “ both knowledge and integrity were wanting to protect us.”
 “ Pray God your noble friend may step forth before this sorrow-
 “ ful epocha arrives, and stem the dreadful tide of profligacy,
 “ inattention to business, and barefaced immorality, which daily
 “ increase in every department of life, and must bring down ruin,
 “ and the dissolution of our country.

“ THAT first quality of *knowledge*, which Lord Northington
 “ lamented the extinction of in this country, I shall never pre-
 “ sume to be entitled to ; but that of integrity I dare assert my
 “ claim.

“ claim to; and in that particular I hold myself inferior to no
 “ man : I only wish it was in my power to give your great and
 “ invaluable friend the most convincing proofs of this assertion, as
 “ well as of my profound veneration for him. You have known
 “ me long enough to be persuaded, that nothing can divert me
 “ from the love of my country, and the paths of an honest con-
 “ duct ; therefore ever command, with the utmost freedom, my
 “ dear Doctor,

“ Your most faithful and sincere friend,

“ JAMES WRIGHT.

“ P. S. I shall be in town on Tuesday about three o'clock, and
 “ stay till the following day *.”

WE have already had occasion to observe, that the offer made by Dr. Addington, on the authority, as he pretended, of Sir James Wright, and in the name of Lord Bute, to take the office of Secretary of State, was so totally inconsistent with the contents of the first letter written by Sir James, that the Earl of Chatham gave no kind of credit to it. So utterly inconsistent was that offer with every thing contained in this second and last letter, that neither the Earl nor Countess of Chatham could help observing, “ *how widely this letter differed from the tenor*”—for the Doctor had boldly undertaken to relate, not the *purport*, but the *tenor* ; not the *substance*, but the *very words*—“ of some of those intimations conveyed in former *strange conversations*.”

* The Numbers III. IV. V. are notes between Lord Chatham and Dr. Addington. Sir James being not privy to any one of them at the time, they are no evidence ; and on that account, as well as on account of their illiberality, they are not reprinted.

No. VII.—*Copy of a letter from Lady Chatham to Dr. Addington, dated February 9th.*

“ I WRITE, my dear Sir, from my Lord’s bed-side, who has
 “ had much pain all last night from gout in his left hand and
 “ wrist. The pulse indicates more pain to come. He desires me
 “ to express for him the true sense he has of all your very friendly
 “ attention in this very delicate and critical situation. The gen-
 “ tleman’s letter which you transmit is handsomely written, and
 “ sufficiently explicit. At the same time, it is impossible not to
 “ remark, *how widely it differs from the tenor of some of the inti-*
 “ *mations conveyed in former strange conversations to you* *. The
 “ letter now before him is written also with much good sense and
 “ candour, as coming from a heart touched with the extreme
 “ dangers impending over the King and Kingdom. Those dan-
 “ gers are *indeed extreme*, and seem to preclude all hope.

“ *Hayes, quarter before one, Feb. 9, 1778.*

Thus much, then, for the propositions which the “ Authentic
 “ Account,” and the “ Narrative,” of Dr. Addington were in-
 tended to establish : Thus much for that Authentic Account, and
 for that Narrative. We have enquired how far the propositions
 are established ; we have compared the Account and the Narra-
 tive with the written Vouchers produced to support them ; from

* The words here printed in Italics are remarkable. Would the Reader have thought it possible, that, in copying this letter for the perusal of Sir James, the Doctor could have *totally omitted* words so remarkable ; words which it so highly imported Sir James to have seen ? Reader, Dr. Addington, in the copy he gave of this paper to Sir James Wright, did *totally omit* these words. And yet the Doctor, in his Narrative, does not scruple to say, that he communicated *that* letter of Lady Chatham—that is, as every honest man would understand it, the whole of that letter—to Sir James.

this

this enquiry and comparison the reader has seen, That nothing contained in the written Vouchers * proves either of the propositions which it, in any wise, concerns Sir James Wright to disprove. For the reader has seen, that nothing in these written Vouchers proves, either that the Earl of Bute held out to the Earl of Chatham the idea of acting with him in Administration; or that any information was given, during the whole course of this transaction, to Sir James, that Lord Chatham was determined without hesitation, peremptorily to reject every idea of acting in Administration with the Earl of Bute.

THE Earl of Bute then is fully vindicated from the charge, such as it was, of having opened a negociation with Lord Chatham: of having pretended to the power, or expressed a wish, of disposing of offices, or conducting measures.

BUT Sir James conceives that he has gone further; he conceives that he has fully vindicated his own character from the charge, so illiberally brought against him, of having acted the part of an officious, insidious emissary. A charge, which, he is sure, the Noble Lord would not have brought, had he not been misinformed: which, he is sure, the Noble Lord would have retracted, had he lived to see the publication of Dr. Addington.

* The Reader will once more observe, that no other of the papers published by Dr. Addington deserve the name of vouchers, but those marked I. II. VI. VII. because to these only was Sir James Wright in any degree privy. Those marked III. IV. V. were private notes, between one of the parties and his friends; which not having been communicated to the other party during the course of the transaction, are of no higher authority than the Account and Narrative; of which, in truth, they are *parts* and not *proofs*. The four first Sir James has here republished, and has added a fifth, not published by Dr. Addington.

For Sir James has proved, as he apprehends, that nothing contained in the written Vouchers can be so misconstrued, as to support the idea, that he ever received, or delivered to Dr. Addington, either directly or indirectly, any proposition from Lord Bute to take a part in Administration with Lord Chatham. And though it be directly asserted, both in the Account and in the Narrative, that such a proposition was made, yet, as Sir James conceives, he has proved that both the Account and Narrative *may be untrue*, because they are not supported by the written Vouchers: *must be untrue*, because they are at once *incompatible* with the written Vouchers, and moreover contradictory to themselves: nay, he has gone yet further; he has proved, beyond a doubt, that neither the Earl, nor the Countess of Chatham, did, at the time, give any credit to those propositions.

Two questions will naturally occur to the Reader. What could induce Dr. Addington to attribute to Sir James propositions he had never made? What could induce others to give a sanction to a Narrative stating propositions, which, at the time, they did not believe to have been made?

To this question a sufficient answer would be made;—Who can account for the paroxysms of party-rage?—But some lingering regard for the character of Dr. Addington has induced Sir James to recollect, if possible, any circumstance of alleviation. If the following Plain Account should serve, in any degree, to palliate the conduct of Dr. Addington; to that palliation, as the last act of friendship, he is fully welcome.

* * * *

DURING

DURING the course of his illness, in 1777, Sir James, as has been stated, received long and frequent visits from Dr. Addington. In these visits, as has been stated, the conversation generally turned upon politics. On such a subject it was scarcely possible not to observe, and observing not to lament, how much the measures of Government were impeded, and the country was endangered, by the spirit of party, and the dissensions of men, whose union would give vigour to the constitution, and energy to every act of Government. Hence the gradation was easy, and natural, to express a wish for a coalition of parties.

It was not unnatural for Sir James and for the Doctor to descend to particulars, and to express a wish, that their respective friends might be united. But this wish was almost always accompanied, on the part of Sir James, by a declaration of his opinion, that Lord Bute *never would* take a part in Administration. To this the Doctor almost as constantly replied, That without taking a part in Administration, by only counselling his Majesty to place his confidence in Lord Chatham, his Lordship might serve his country, and endear himself to all parties.

BUT Sir James knew, and, on these occasions, frequently repeated to Dr. Addington, that he knew Lord Bute had not seen the King for many years *.

* About the year 1769, Sir James Wright, then his Majesty's Resident to the Republic of Venice, was in England, on leave of absence. Lord B. was then in Venice, at the house of the Resident, dangerously ill. His death was reported. His Majesty questioned Sir James about the truth of this report: and Sir James remarking, that his Lordship had been much altered by a former illness, his Majesty said, *he had not seen him for two years.*—The Reader must have observed, how indecently the Doctor has perverted this simple circumstance.

BUT he generally added, that he was firmly persuaded, Lord Bute wished as well to this country, as Lord Chatham or any other member of the community could wish to it: that he verily believed, that Lord Bute respected the abilities of Lord Chatham; and, so far as his health and retired situation permitted, would gladly contribute to procure such a coalition, as under Lord Chatham, or under any other able and honest man, might restore vigour to Government, and tranquillity to the Public. These conversations were frequent, but private, but confidential, but held in a sick room, between a patient and his physician, between two intimate friends. It is possible, that in the course of these private conversations, either the Doctor, or Sir James, or Lady Wright, whose kind attention to Sir James made her the constant companion of his hours of sickness, might throw out some vague ideas of changes in this or that department.

IT is possible—and it is the only palliation Sir James can imagine for the conduct of Dr. Addington—it is possible that Dr. Addington may have confounded these former private, confidential, unguarded effusions of social conversation, with the more serious transaction, which began on the 2d, and ended on the 7th of February 1778.

THAT transaction was simply this: Towards the end of January, 1778, Dr. Addington grew more earnest and serious in his conversations with Sir James on these subjects, declared that Lord Chatham had the highest opinion of the honour of Lord Bute, and his sincere good wishes for the public safety; intimated, That he wished Lord Bute might be acquainted with the sentiments

of Lord Chatham ; and that *his* sentiments might be known upon the re-admission of Lord Chatham into administration.

WITH this intimation of the Doctor, made with so much earnestness, Sir James readily complied. He communicated to Lord Bute the substance of this conversation. The reply to that communication, on the part of Lord Bute, is contained in the Letter of Sir James, dated the 2d of February.

THIS Letter was sent from the country ; and there Sir James remained till the 6th of February. On the 6th he returned to town, in consequence of the very pressing invitation of the Doctor. Then it was, that Dr. Addington gave a copy of the message dictated by Lord Chatham, as a reply to the first Letter of Sir James. But neither *then*, nor at *any time since*, did Dr. Addington mention a single syllable of Lord Chatham's declaration, that he could not serve with Lord Bute or Lord North. The first intimation which Sir James received of this conversation, and of this unexpected, unaccountable, introduction of the name of Lord North, was from the printed Narrative.

AN unexpected accident in the family of Lord Bute had well nigh deprived Sir James of all opportunity of delivering Lord Chatham's message to his Lordship. But, willing to satisfy the anxiety of the Doctor, Sir James ventured to break in upon his retirement, and intreat an audience of a moment. That audience his Lordship granted in the following note.

Copy of a Note from the Earl of Bute to Sir James Wright.

“ My dear Sir James,

Feb. 7th.

“ I CERTAINLY will not let you go out of town without the
“ pleasure of seeing you ; though an uninformed, retired man,
“ like me, can be of no use in the business you have been enter-
“ tained with. I wish you would call about two.”

WHAT passed between his Lordship and Sir James, on the perusal of the message from Lord Chatham, the Reader has seen ; and will have observed, that it breathes the same spirit of retirement, as the short Note he has just perused.

THAT evening Sir James returned to Ray-House ; having previously acquainted the Doctor, that his stay in town could be of no service ; and, on the Sunday morning, sent to Dr. Addington his second and last Letter.

AFTER he had received that Letter, and *not before*, the Doctor thought fit to communicate to Sir James, that part of Lord Chatham's private Note, where he speaks so unhandsomely of Lord Bute : but at no time, did the Doctor communicate that part of the same Note, where he speaks of Sir James in a stile so peevish, so passionate, so illiberal, so unmerited. Nor had Sir James the least reason to suspect that such sentiments had been expressed, or conceived of him, till after the decease of the noble Earl. Nor then was he indebted for the discovery to the *friendly integrity* of Dr. Addington.

THIS plain Narrative Sir James leaves to the Reader without a single comment. It is with reluctance, as well as diffidence, that he appears before the public. But something was due to himself : more to his noble friends. To the eye of candor, they and he, it is to be hoped, will now stand fully justified. Sir James therefore quits the subject for ever : no future attack shall engage him to resume it.

DR. ADDINGTON's Narrative.

Containing his Account of what passed relative to this Transaction.

THE first time Sir James Wright talked with Dr. Addington respecting Lord Bute and Lord Chatham was about the beginning of January 1778. Sir James began with lamenting the situation of this country, and gave it as his opinion, that the only method of saving it was for Lord Bute and Lord Chatham to unite firmly together, but remarking, that they were two of the men the King *hated* most. After various conversations on this matter, Sir James said, Lord Bute thought Lord Chatham had a disrespect for him. Dr. Addington replied, That, to the best of his remembrance, Lord Chatham had never once named Lord Bute to him, but that he thought Lord Chatham had no disrespect for Lord Bute: adding, that though they might differ in politics, Lord Chatham was not the kind of man to have disrespect, or bear ill-will to any man. Sir James added, He was sure Lord Bute had the highest respect for Lord Chatham; that he had heard Lord Bute bestow great commendations on his whole speech at the beginning of the session, except that part which regarded the recall of the troops, and that the Doctor might tell Lord Chatham so if he pleased; but he never mentioned it till the 3d of February.

Nothing more passed till the 2d of February, when Sir James asked the Doctor, whether he had mentioned their former conversation to Lord Chatham. He said, he had not; Sir James then said, that since that conversation he had seen Lord Bute, and was certain he had the same earnest desire with Lord Chatham to save the country; and was also certain, that nobody could save it, but Lord Chatham, with the assistance of Lord Bute: that Lord Bute was ready to assist him, and would be Secretary of State in the room of Lord Weymouth: the Doctor understood that Lord Bute had told Sir James so; and he has asked Sir James once or twice since, whether

Lord Bute would have been Secretary of State in Lord Weymouth's room? and he answered, Yes, he would, or would not, as Lord Chatham pleased. When Sir James had mentioned Lord Bute's readiness to assist Lord Chatham, and to be Secretary of State, he expressed a wish that the whole which had passed might be communicated to Lord Chatham. The Doctor on this resolved to go to Hayes the next morning for that purpose, looking upon it as a matter of very great moment. But he desired to have in writing, before he went, the substance of what had passed between Lord Bute and Sir James. Sir James said, he had not time to write then, as he was in a hurry to go to Ray-House, but would write in the evening, and send his letter to town by nine the next morning. The Doctor, notwithstanding, was permitted to acquaint Lord Chatham with Lord Bute's willingness to be Secretary of State, and, as he understood, with every thing else he has deposed which is not expressed in the letter. (Vide No. I. in the preceding Account*.) The letter is dated the 2d of January, 1778: it should have been dated February 2d: The Doctor received it February 3d, before nine in the morning, and set out directly for Hayes. He read the letter to Lord Chatham, who was very attentive, and in a few minutes afterwards dictated this answer. (Vide No. II. in the preceding Account*.) As soon as Dr. Addington had writ and read to Lord Chatham the above answer, he communicated to Lord Chatham what Sir James Wright had told him of the readiness of Lord Bute to be Secretary of State in the place of Lord Weymouth. He seemed to think it strange. "Indeed," said he, "did Sir James Wright tell you so?" "He certainly told me so."—After this, he asked Lord Chatham, whether he had any objection to coming in with Lord Bute or Lord North? He lifted up his hands, and said, "It was impossible for him to serve the King and Country with either of them; and if any one asks you about it, I desire you to bear witness that you heard me say so." He repeated the same words just as the Doctor was leaving him.

Sir James continued at Ray-House till February 5th or 6th. He called on the Doctor in the morning of the 6th, and took a correct copy of Lord Chatham's answer, dated February 3d. Upon reading it, he asked what was meant by the words, "real change." It looks, said he, as if they included Lord Bute as well as the Ministry, and as if Lord Chatham thought Lord Bute was concerned in public affairs. I can assure you, he has nothing to do with them, and has not seen the King these two years. If Lord Chatham has a mind to undertake the direction of public affairs, there will be no objection to his having the assistance of Lord Camden; but there are some he might chuse who could not be admitted. Sir James said, he was to wait on Lord Bute at one that day, and would send the Doctor an answer to Lord Chatham's paper between two and three, if Lord Bute should chuse to give any. But a misfortune happening in Lord Bute's family, no answer was sent till February 8th in the morning. On the 7th of February, a servant of Lord Chatham's came to town, by whom Dr. Addington sent a letter to

* Meaning the Doctor's Account; these two papers are re-published in this Account; and the part of the former, which the Doctor had suppressed, is supplied.

Hayes at two o'clock, giving Lord Chatham an account of the above-mentioned conversation with Sir James Wright on the 6th. On the evening of the 7th, his Lordship wrote the following answer, which the Doctor received the next morning. (Vide No. III. and No. IV. inserted in the preceding Account *.)

On the 8th of February, soon after Lord Chatham's letter arrived, the Doctor received that letter from Sir James, which had been expected from February 6th. (Vide No. VI. in the preceding Account †.) It is dated February 7th, and contains Lord Bute's answer to Lord Chatham's paper of February 3d. The Doctor sent it immediately to Hayes, and had the next morning the following answer written by Lady Chatham, dated February 9th. (Vide No. VII. in the preceding Account ‡.) The Doctor communicated to Sir James Wright this letter from Lady Chatham, and also the latter part of that from Lord Chatham as soon as he could, and so the affair ended.

P. S. In Sir James Wright's letter of February 2d, there are the following words: "I told Lord Bute that a friend of mine had hinted to me, that he thought Lord Chatham had a high opinion of his Lordship's honour, as well as his sincere good wishes for the public safety." After reading these words to Lord Chatham, the Doctor could not but take notice that Sir James had mistaken him, for all he said was, that he thought Lord Chatham had no disrespect for Lord Bute, &c. as is stated above.

* Meaning the Doctor's Account; being private notes to which only one of the parties was privy, these Numbers are not re-published in this Account.

† Meaning the Doctor's Account. This Number is re-published in this Account.

‡ Meaning the Doctor's Account. This Number is likewise republished in this Account.

F I N I S.

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